Piracy of Argapyrin Formula by Foreign Companies

†3073. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that formula for preparation of Argapyrin, an Ayurvedic medicine made by using garlic and onion has been pirated by foreign companies who have prepared an allopathic medicine under the same brand name;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to prevent similar misuse of other Indian medicines by foreign companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

(c) The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) is being set up to bring knowledge available in public domain about the medicinal use of plants in Ayurveda in easily accesssible and retrievable form to prevent patenting by others. Certain protections are already available under Patent Act.

Eradication of Filaria

3074. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adequate treatment facilities are not available for Filaria patients in the coastal States, particularly Orissa;

(b) whether Government propose to launch any national programme to eradicate Filaria from those States; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.